

critics more often than they used the term “liberal” to describe Judge Sotomayor herself, despite her very liberal record.

And there is a clear double standard in the media’s coverage of Judge Sotomayor compared to President Bush’s nominees.

After they were nominated, the national media referred to Justice Alito and Justice Roberts as “conservative” far more frequently than they have labeled Judge Sotomayor “liberal.”

In addition, the national media have heralded Judge Sotomayor’s impressive life story, despite ignoring the similar personal story of former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales during his confirmation.

The national media should set aside bias and treat Judge Sotomayor the same way they treated previous nominees.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIA ESTHER CARRILLO, FOUNDER OF THE HISPANIC-AMERICAN INTERCULTURAL WORKSHOP, FORMER MEMBER OF THE MAYOR’S HISPANIC ADVISORY COUNCIL, FOUNDER OF THE HISPANIC YOUTH VOICE OF TAMPA AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE TAMPA HISPANIC HERITAGE INC.

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to herald the life and philanthropic contributions of Maria Esther Carrillo, and to express our gratitude for her achievements in the Tampa Bay area as a passionate community activist and educational leader.

Carrillo and her husband Francisco escaped a violent Colombia, controlled by Marxist guerrillas and drug cartels, to settle in Tampa in 1990; only five years after graduating from The University of the Andes in 1985. Carrillo immediately identified with the strong Hispanic culture in Tampa. She made it her life’s work to focus on improving the education of those around her. She sought to bridge English and Hispanic cultures by introducing multicultural studies in language and heritage. Through her work with the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Inc., Carrillo was able to bridge communities of Hispanic and non-Hispanic citizens through countless cultural celebrations and in so doing fusing together diverse groups within the Tampa area.

Carrillo’s faith and fervor in a multicultural Tampa, led to the foundation of the Taller Intercultural Hispano-Americano (TICH) in 1998. Her non-profit was established to champion the coexistence of diverse groups; to educate, share and enjoy other cultures and heritage. Carrillo, the Founder-Director, amassed sponsorships for a free festival that emphasized dance, folklore, food, culture, life-style and art for the Tampa community.

Her core beliefs were founded in the limitless potential of the next generation and it is with her commitment that her intrinsic reaction was not surprising. Sacrificing herself, Maria Esther Carrillo moved her body into harm’s way, allowing her maternal instinct to shield her daughter from the out of control truck in Miami, Florida. The proud mother was accom-

panying her daughter, a high school senior, home after accepting a college scholarship so that she could attend Columbia University in the fall.

She lived as she died, protecting and helping the future of the hardworking Hispanic youth that she loved so dearly.

I wish Maria Lilianna Carrillo a speedy recovery and my thoughts and prayers are with the Carrillo family.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTHY TRANSITIONS ACT OF 2009

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representatives MARY BONO MACK and DAVE CAMP to introduce bipartisan legislation aimed at addressing the unique needs of young people with serious mental illness. This legislation will provide comprehensive support for youth so that they can transition into healthy and successful adults.

Young adults suffering from mental illness fall through the cracks far too often. Last year, former Senator Gordon Smith and I requested a report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examining the challenges facing this population. The results were very troubling. As of 2006, approximately 2.4 million young adults age 18–26 in America had a serious mental illness and another 9.3 million suffered with a moderate or mild mental illness. This population has significantly higher rates of unemployment, incarceration, suicide, inadequate housing, as well as lower rates of continuing education.

There is no coherent federal policy to address this issue and our system is fragmented. The GAO found that many youth lose mental health coverage or have their coverage disrupted when they turn 18, and are unable to find age-appropriate services in the adult mental health system. As a result, many young adults are adrift without services, support, or guidance.

The dysfunctional mental health system described by GAO has had a particularly harsh impact on vulnerable youth, such as those aging out of foster care. A national survey found that foster youth were four times more likely to have attempted suicide in the preceding year when compared to those never placed in foster care. Another study found that these youth suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at rates similar to Iraq War veterans. We cannot let this cycle of neglect continue.

We developed the Healthy Transitions Act in response to GAO’s findings that exposed the critical gaps in age-appropriate mental health and supportive services for young adults. This legislation builds on the successful Partnership for Youth in Transition Demonstration Program and will allow the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand their efforts to assist states in serving young people with mental illness. It will provide grant funding to states to develop statewide coordination plans that will assist adolescents and young adults with serious mental health disorders in making a healthy transition into adulthood. The bill will also provide grant funding for states to successfully

implement their plans and ensure that the care systems created are both comprehensive and sustainable. Finally, the legislation will create a Committee of Federal Partners. The Committee will include representatives from all agencies that serve young adults as well as representatives from consumer and family advocacy organizations. The Federal Partners will evaluate the states’ programs, provide technical assistance, and report to Congress on the progress being made.

It has become increasingly difficult for young adults to navigate our current fragmented mental health system. The Healthy Transitions Act aims to fill the cracks in the system by coordinating the work of federal, state, and local partners. It is our social responsibility to help these youth develop into successful, independent adults. I hope all of my colleagues can recognize the importance of investing in our young people and will support this legislation.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, having just returned from a week in China with Speaker Pelosi, I am glad to more fully appreciate the country’s tremendous scope, population, the vast and varied landscape, and its rich history. Although the focus was on global warming and the environment and the impressive progress China has made to adjust its policies, the subject of human rights was never far from the surface.

In Tiananmen Square I was taken back to the monumental events of 20 years ago and their tragic conclusion. It is sobering to understand how intensely the Chinese government suppresses any mention or image of the Tiananmen Square massacre. So much so that today there is virtually no knowledge of these events on the part of the young.

That is why it is so important for Congress to mark this observance: to give knowledge to those with no memory and to give hope to those that do remember. It is critical that those who risked so much, those who died or who were persecuted, are celebrated for their courage. It is my hope that one day the Chinese people will have the freedom they deserve.

COMMEMORATING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE SUPPRESSION

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 489, recognizing the twentieth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown. In June of 1989, the Chinese government unnecessarily applied the heavy hand of the People’s Liberation Army to violently